

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached replacement sheet for  
Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings as originally filed.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This Amendment addresses the issues outstanding from the final Office Action dated December 19, 2006, and is believed to place the subject application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended herein.

The specification and the drawings have been amended to address the Examiner's formal objections. The objection to Claim 12 has also been addressed by appropriate amendment.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 12 and 16 is noted with appreciation. As noted above, Claim 12 has been amended to address the outstanding objection. Accordingly, Claim 12 is condition for allowance. Additionally, Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form, thus placing it in condition for allowance as well.

Regarding the outstanding rejection of Claim 11, Applicants respectfully observe that the asserted rationale for the rejection appears to overlook an important feature of Claim 11, upon which a previous allowance of that claim (see the Notice of Allowance dated July 6, 2005) was presumably based. In particular, Applicants note that the rejection fails to address the feature that the splines of the plate having the pawl project radially inwardly relative

to respective inner peripheries of the retainer plates of the holder. As noted in the Remarks of the Amendment dated January 21, 2005, the overall construction of Claim 11, including the aforementioned feature, is particularly advantageous in that it allows for a reduced diameter, high strength damper structure.

As the cited Ara reference is notably lacking the aforementioned feature, the previous allowance of Claim 11 over the Ara reference was clearly appropriate. Accordingly, in view of the deficiencies of the Ara reference relative to Claim 11, Applicants respectfully request that the allowance of Claim 11 be reinstated at this time.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, it is respectfully urged that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

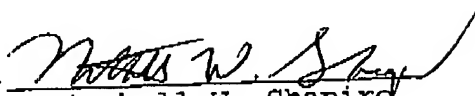
has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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